

BIGGEST TANKER IDLE IN HAMBURG

Ship Built by Onassis Kept
Inactive by Rivals' Boycott
Over Saudi Arab Tie

HAMBURG, Feb. 22 (P)—The

world's biggest oil tanker is eight months old but has never carried a cargo and is costing her owner a fortune tied up idle at dock.

The 46,800-ton Al-Malik Saud Al-Awal was built by Aristotle Onassis, Greek ship owner, to sail under Saudi Arabian charter. Mr. Onassis was to provide a tanker fleet headed by the idle giant, and in return was promised oil cargo concessions from Saudi Arabia.

But the United States questions his charter arrangement and the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) contends it infringes on Aramco's concessions. Joined by other big oil companies, Aramco is waging a boycott against the ship.

There are reports that the big tanker may soon be sold outright to King Saud, and that the monarch is interested in buying 1,000,000 tons of tankers from Mr. Onassis.

Meanwhile, the white ship, 1,104 feet long, waits at dockside with her Greek crew of sixty-three. She was launched last June 5. The fitting out was completed three months ago.

Shippers here have long known that the tanker is too big to go through the Suez Canal with a full load.

A spokesman for Mr. Onassis' Olympic Maritime Company remarked on this today: "Mr. Onassis is not trying to conceal this well-known fact. He favors big tankers. Even if not fully loaded, the vessel would be relatively less expensive to operate than a smaller one."

The ship can carry as much oil as 5,500 railroad tank cars, towers as high as a twelve-story building and cost \$6,000,000 to build. She has a 17,500 horsepower turbine that provides an average speed of seventeen knots. In addition she is equipped with radar, fireproof decks, air-conditioned cabins for the officers, elevators between engine rooms and a swimming pool.

No Onassis employee here will publicly estimate the cost of keeping the tanker idle in Hamburg but other shipping men say it is about \$5,000 daily.

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